

OLC 74-2319

1 November 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre-election Outlook for Membership Changes in Oversight Committees

1. Senate: Only two Senators who are members of our oversight subcommittees are up for reelection this year, suggesting that there will probably be a substantial number of subcommittee members up for reelection in 1976.

(a) On the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Central Intelligence, only Republican Peter H. Dominick (R., Colo.) faces reelection this year. All media sources indicate he is a definite underdog. Republicans on the Committee this Congress, in order of seniority, are Senators Strom Thurmond (R., S. C.), John Tower (R., Tex.), Peter H. Dominick (R., Colo.), Barry Goldwater (R., Ariz.), William L. Scott (R., Va.), and Robert Taft, Jr. (R., Ohio). If Senator Dominick is defeated, presumably Senator Tower will have first opportunity to replace him, followed by the other above-listed Republicans. Of this group of potential subcommittee members, only Senator Goldwater faces an election this year, and he is considered a shoe-in.

(b) On the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Intelligence Operations, Senator Milton R. Young (R., N. Dak.) is the only member up for reelection. Congressional Quarterly states there is no clear favorite in this race, but Young's opponent, William Guy, has Senator Young on the defensive and is rated as unquestionably the strongest opponent Young has faced. If Senator Young is defeated, his spot on the Appropriations Subcommittee will likely be offered to Senators Clifford P. Case (R., N. J.), Hiram L. Fong (R., Hawaii), or Edward W. Brooke (R., Mass.), in that order. These Senators are not only the next senior Republicans on the full Appropriations Committee, but all three men also currently serve on the Defense Subcommittee.

2. House of Representatives

(a) Armed Services Special Subcommittee on Intelligence: There will be at least two and perhaps three new members on this Subcommittee. Democrat O. C. Fisher (D., Tex.) and Republican Leslie C. Arends (R., Ill.) are both retiring, and Republican Bob Wilson (R., Calif.) is presently favored in a close contest for reelection. Congressional Quarterly rates the reelection of the remaining members of the Subcommittee [Chairman Lucien N. Nedzi (D., Mich.), Representatives F. Edward Hebert (D., La.), Melvin Price (D., Ill.), and William G. Bray (R., Ind.)] as safe. Democrats in line to take Representative Fisher's position, in order of seniority are: Representative Charles E. Bennett (D., Fla.), Samuel S. Stratton (D., N. Y.), and Otis G. Pike (D., N. Y.). All three men are rated as sure bets for reelection. The one or two Republican seats on the Subcommittee will likely be offered to Representatives Carleton J. King (R., N. Y.) and William L. Dickinson (R., Ala.). Representative King, who is also the Conservative Party candidate, is favored for reelection, and Representative Dickinson is rated as certain to be returned to Congress. The Republican currently next in line on the Committee is Representative Charles S. Gubser (R., Calif.), but he is retiring after this term.

(b) House Appropriations Special Group: There will likely be no Democratic changes on the Special Group, but there will be one, with an outside chance of a second, Republican change. Representatives George H. Mahon (D., Tex.), Jamie L. Whitten (D., Miss.), and Robert L. F. Sikes (D., Fla.) all have safe seats. Representative William E. Minshall (R., Ohio) is retiring, and Representative Elford A. Cederberg (R., Mich.) is favored in his reelection contest. The next senior Republicans on the full Committee are Representatives Robert H. Michel (R., Ill.) and Silvio O. Conte (R., Mass.), both of whom are considered safe bets for reelection. If Chairman Mahon follows past practice and elevates the next senior member of the Subcommittee on Defense, the vacancy will fall to Representative Jack Edwards (R., Ala.). If there are two

Republican vacancies on the Subcommittee, Chairman Mahon will have to appoint a member who is not presently on the Subcommittee on Defense. Republicans now on the Subcommittee are Representatives Minshall, Edwards, Glenn Davis (R., Wisc.), STAT and Louis Wyman (R., N. H.); the latter two are not returning to Congress.



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